

American Secret Intelligence Agency

CIA AND ITS INNER FACE

CIA's Infiltration Causes Suspicion Everywhere

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It is not only outside America that CIA activities are subject to fearful doubts. For instance, Theodore C. Sorenson wrote that in the early days of the Peace Corps, he fought tooth and nail -- and apparently successfully -- to protect the organization's ranks from CIA infiltration.

Other governmental institutions, the US press, businessmen, charitable associations and universities have been as careful in protecting themselves against CIA influence as they would have been against Soviet agents. They were not as successful as the Peace Corps. Most of these fears are without foundation because CIA does not depend on secret agents or sources in other institutions any more. But domestically and internationally, its activities -- e.g., the case of the CIA-financed International Studies Center of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology -- have caused many students and businessmen to regard CIA infiltration seriously. When it was learned that CIA agents worked among Michigan University students from 1955 to 1959, it added fuel to the flames.

The peculiarities of the methods used by agents and the conditions under which they work are controversial topics. Although it happened years ago, the fact that agents were active among the students has caused concern that students studying overseas and aid efforts in foreign countries will suffer and probably be obstructed by the suspicion of the governments in those countries.

CIA Under Supervision

Despite their fears and doubts, some sincere individuals believe strongly that the CIA must protect national interests.

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